(ग) बिहार में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की मरम्मत के लिए पिछले तीन वर्षों अर्थात 1988–89 से 1990–91 तक के दौरान 3299 लाख रु० का आवंटन किया गया था जिनमें से राज्य सरकार ने 3096 लाख रु० खर्च किए । चालू वर्ष में अभी तक 529.45 लाख रु० का आवंटन किया गया है ।

Upgradation of Jaipur Airport

296. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question 934 in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 1991 and state the reasons for not upgrading Jaipur airport as an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): The Government is not in favour of proliferation of International Airports. However, the existing facilities at Jaipur airport are being upgraded so as to receive Airbus A-320/A-300.

Export of Cotton and its impact on domestic prices

297. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that without assessing actual cotton production Government allowed export of cotton to the tune of over 12.50 lakh bales in the cotton season i.e. September 1990/August, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result thereof the prevailing price of raw cotton has almost been 100 per cent more than that in September, 1990;

(c) whether it is a fact that the price of Cotton yarn has gone up by about 25 per cent due to shortage of cotton and exhorbitant increase in price of raw cotton;

(d) whether it is also a fact that handloom mills are on the urge of closure due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir. However, there was an unexpected decline in the cotton production during the cotton season September, '90-August, '91 as a result of unfavourable weather conditions and severe pest attacks in certain cotton growing areas of the country.

(b) The average price of raw cotton in November, '91 showed an increase of about 51 per cent compared to the price in the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The average price of cotton hank yarn used by the handloom sector increased by about 30 per cent in November, '91 compared to the price in the corresponding period of last year. The increase in the cotton hank yarn price has also been caused by factors like increase in the cost of fuel, rise in bank rate, general price increase in the case of all commodities, etc.

(d) and (e) While there are no problems on the availability of cotton hank yarn for consumption in the handloom sector, the problem has been one of prices. Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by pursuading the spinning mills in the cooperative, private and State sectors to supply hank yarn to handloom weavers at pre-budget prices.

Foreign exchange spent on jet engine workshop at Palam

298. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that $ 11 million in foreign exchange